viii. Executive Work Plan: Department of Biotechnology, Government of Republic of India and the Ministry of Higher Education, Syrian Arab Republic; and

ix. Programme of Cooperation in Science & Technology.

(iii) These nine documents signed will provide India with a sectoral framework in the respective fields for upgradation of our relations with Syria.

'Backward District Initiative' programme in Orissa

*55. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has approved a special package for development of seven district of Orissa under the 'Backward District Initiative Programme'; and

(b) if so, the details of the areas so covered in the State under the above programme and Central assistance provided for the purpose to each of the block?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE):(a) Seven districts of Orissa, namely, Malkangiri, Ganjam, Koraput, Gajapati, Rayagada, Nawrangpur and Mayurbhanj have been identified as extremist affected.

(b) As four districts, namely, Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada and Nawrangpur are covered under the Special Plan for the undivided Koraput-Bolangir-Kalahandi (KBK) districts being funded under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, the remaining three districts, namely, Ganjam, Mayurbhanj and Gajapati are being covered under the Backward Districts Initiative also being funded as a separate component under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana. These three districts will be allocated Rs.15 crore each per year for three years *i.e.* Rs. 45 crore. During the current year, Rs.15 crore each has been allocated for Ganjam and Mayurbhanj districts in addition to the Rs.250 crore allocated for the Special Plan for the eight districts included in the undivided KBK districts of Orissa.